



**Multi-Modal Transportation Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
March 26, 2014  
3:00-4:30 PM  
1st Floor North Conference Room  
City Hall**

**Attending:**

**MMTC Commission Members:** Jim Grode, Till Dohse, Mary Weber, Julie Mayfield, Marcia Bromberg, Lael Gray, Don Kostelec, Kristy Carter and Bob Roepnack.

**Non-Attending MMTC Commission Members:** Itiyopiya Ewart, Terri March and Bruce Emory.

**Staff Members:** Mariate Echeverry, Martha McGlohon, Jeff Moore, and Janet GeorgeMurr, Jeff Staudinger, Barb Mee.

**Community Members:** David Allen Wilson.

▪ Jim Grode opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to MMTC Meeting.

▪ **March 26, 2014 Agenda:** Jim added under New Business: Call for members to the MPO Asheville Citizen Advisory Committee; Marcia moved to approve the agenda; Mary seconded; carried unanimously.

▪ **February 26, 2013 Minutes:** Mary moved to approve the minutes; Marcia seconded, carried unanimously.

**Public Comment None**

**New Business:**

• **Consideration of Greenway Committee Members:** Marcia moved to approve four new candidates for consideration to the Greenway Committee, as follows: John Ridout, Richard Lee, Amy Vanden Heuvel and Kimberly Williams; Julie seconded and carried unanimously.

• **East of the Riverway Transportation Network Plan:** Jeff Staudinger, Planning Department presented a power point presentation. The East of the Riverway Multimodal Neighborhood Project, begun in March of 2011, is now nearing completion. Its purpose has been to support planning that will lead to sustainable development in the City of Asheville. Asheville was awarded \$850,000, and was one of only 62 communities nationally awarded planning funds for sustainable community development. This award, funded through the US Department of Transportation TIGER II program, has been used to engage area residents in planning for stronger neighborhoods, and will result in “shovel ready” plans for the Town Branch and Clingman Forest Greenway and a new Roundabout at the Clingman Avenue Extension/Depot Street intersection. Funds have also supported the repurposing of the WC Reid Center into a green jobs education and training center (for which the Asheville Housing Authority was awarded a \$4 million HUD grant), a transportation network plan that is the framework for the City’s multi-modal transportation investments in the East of the Riverway area, and a small areas development plan for City-owned property on Riverside Drive in the heart of the River Arts District. Additionally, a community energy plan and infrastructure inventory was completed. A number of website links for further information: <http://eastoftheriverway.com/>; [East of the Riverway: Transportation and Energy Community Survey 2012](#); and [Community Energy Reduction Policy Analysis - 12-6-12](#).

How can MMTC help?

1. Take a lead role in public policy research supporting sustainability and multi-modal transportation;
2. Support collaboration for successful leveraging;
3. Explore regional linkages (e.g. Land of Sky, MPO) to support this effort;

4. Directly support City initiatives that result from the East of the Riverway planning effort;
5. Explore how the fundamental concepts can be used to target multiple impacts;
6. Support the ongoing community engagement strategy that builds on the model used in the East of the Riverway process;
7. Explore how multi-modal infrastructure improvements lead to economic development;
8. Support the City's Tiger VI grant application at the April 22 City Council meeting

Julie moved that the MMTC support City of Asheville application of Tiger VI grant. Don seconded; carried unanimously.

●**City Council Presentation:** Jim stated that on May 13, 2014, he will give a presentation to City Council on the Commission's work. In addition to highlighting our accomplishments, this is an opportunity to advocate to the Council on multimodal issues. Jim solicited priorities from the Commission members. The consensus was that securing a dedicated source of funding was the highest priority, and that we should ask Council to work towards that goal, perhaps tasking the Commission to identify and present options. Julie referred to a report, "Potential Funding Methods for Multi-Modal Transportation in Asheville," that was compiled by a group of concerned residents of the City of Asheville and Buncombe County, many who have served on various City commissions, and offered to circulate it among the Commission.

●**MMTC Membership to Asheville Citizen Advisory Committee for MPO:** Julie moved to have Don be the official representative from the Multimodal Transportation Commission; and to support Marcia's application to CAC, Mary seconded; carried unanimously.

●**Repaving Prioritization Discussion:** Jim Grode stated that Council Liaison Gwen Wisler requested this item to be added to the MMTC agenda. Since Sunset Road has many potholes but less traffic, the priority of repaving is not at the top of the list with PW. How can MMTC incorporate multimodal concepts in the decision process with PW on priority process depending on density, etc? Martha stated that Cathy Ball completed and submitted a priority of repaving list to City Council. Ken Putnam is also working on this process in reviewing secondary and primary roads. Kristy said that even when this road could be treated as multimodal, the area's income level and options to move around should be taken into consideration.

### **General Committee Updates:**

●**Transit Committee** welcomed the new members; assigned the new members to participate in the Transit Goals; separate group meetings will be held for improving the rider experience; Transit Committee TMP Implementation working group to meet with local companies regarding possible Passport use; and an effort to engage the business community in promoting ART (Asheville Redefines Transit.)

●**Greenway Committee:** The Friends of Connect Buncombe County (FOCB) actively working to advance the Greenways and Trails Master Plan and construction of greenways throughout Buncombe County; FOCB will be starting with the planned path from Hominy Creek to the NC Arboretum; working on more community outreach; FOCB plan to raise \$6,000 in matching funds for a feasibility study for the proposed greenway.

●**Bike/Ped Task Force:** Don announced that he will be attending a meeting in Charlotte to restore bike/ped funding for complete streets.

●**SACEE:** Working on ways that the City could begin the use of electricity more efficiently; Downtown recycling; care sharing program; Presentations from Duke Energy on Programs and Incentives;

●**Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC):** discussion of potholes; traffic pattern on South French Broad and possibly removing the speed bumps since the SFB is use for emergency vehicles and buses.

### **STAFF UPDATES:**

●**Project updates** – attached: Mariate updates certain projects as follows:

1. Nextbus kickoff most likely in May; outsourcing to have Nextbus 650 signs installed; there have been questions about having accessible signs for the visually impaired, and even when the system allows it that is not included in the current deployment. Further analysis needs to be done to determine where to include those.
  2. Haywood Rd multimodal improvements – Martha is working with the property owners; bike lane on Haywood Road.
- U-Haul Car Sharing Presentation: Mariate announced that COA has signed up with U-Haul to have car sharing program in three locations in downtown Asheville and one at UNC-Asheville; availability is through website or mobile App; lock/unlock car using keypad technology at the start and end of each reservation or from the mobile website or app; hourly rate start of \$4.95 plus mileage and \$62 a day; insurance, gas and 24/7 roadside assistance is provided by U-Haul Car Share; cars can be reserved 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by the hour or by the day.
  - Hendersonville Road Update – Jeff announced that DOT will be paying for the engineering of the pedestrian signals at a cost of \$45,000. Hendersonville Road will have six landing pads.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - None

●**Next Meeting Agenda Items:**

1. In May or June to have Ken Putnam or Greg Shuler to speak about prioritization of potholes in the City;
2. Overview of document “Potential Funding Methods for Multimodal Transportation in Asheville” for permanent source of funding.

4:45pm-Jim adjourned the meeting.